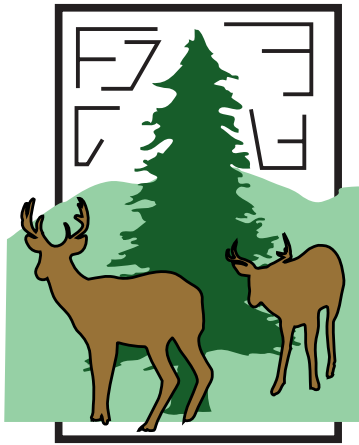


Mitigation part of the business plan

A mitigation—to make or become milder—is a definition one will find in all of Western's environmental documents. And in 1999, Western biologists monitored many areas to ensure that nature and technology exist as harmoniously as possible.



Within the past year, Western surveyed toad and mice populations in Colorado; birds of prey in California, Arizona, Colorado and Utah; birds, vernal pools and beetles in California; and various endangered, threatened or sensitive plants in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

Other mitigation measures across our service territory include:

- ◆ Monitoring osprey nests relocated in Montana, California and Wyoming to reduce the potential for line outages and electrocuting nesting birds.
- ◆ Reconstructing vernal pools (known commonly as seasonal wetland areas) in California to prevent encroachment and damage from cattle.

Western surpassed its goal in replacing three acres of successful habitat.

- ◆ Surveillance of transmission lines crossing wetlands in North and South Dakota to minimize impacts from routine maintenance.
- ◆ Monitoring a bald eagle nesting platform built in Montana last year.

Western also participated in at least one environmentally focused research project per region last year. These activities involve:

- ◆ Reviewing studies on threatened and endangered fish for the Colorado River Endangered Fish Species Recovery Program.
- ◆ Participating on three subcommittees of the Missouri River Natural Resource Committee that study bird and fish species listed as endangered or threatened.
- ◆ Asking to participate in the Platte River Cooperative Recovery Program.
- ◆ Helping with research undertaken by the Upper Missouri River/Yellowstone River pallid sturgeon workgroup.

Western is also preparing a video on protecting birds of prey from electrical equipment for a diverse group of agencies and individuals.

